

LAYOUT STRUCTURE FOR A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to a layout structure for a liquid crystal display, and more particularly to a layout structure for a liquid crystal display capable of having fewer data lines.

Description of the Related Art

10 [0002] Recently, small-sized TFT (Thin Film Transistor) LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) modules have been widely used in small hand-held electronic devices, such as PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), and mobile phones. FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration showing a conventional TFT-LCD module, where the TFT-LCD module includes sub-pixels p arranged in an $m \times n$ array, a source
15 driver unit, and a gate driver unit. The source driver unit provides n data channels connected to data lines $S1$ to S_m respectively. The gate driver unit provides m scan channels connected to the scan lines $G1$ to G_n respectively.

Every three sub-pixels p constitutes a pixel, and represents the colors red, green and blue respectively. Each sub-pixel p is coupled to a corresponding data line through a transistor T. The gate of the transistor T is coupled to a corresponding scan line. A typical source driver IC has 384 channels and may provide the channels required for 128 pixels, and a typical small-sized TFT-LCD only needs one source driver IC.

[0003] Requirements for frame quality and frame resolution are steadily increasing, the number of channels of the driver IC used in this application must be increase as well. The number of source driver channels must be increased because for each pixel there are three channels for red, green, and blue sub-pixels that have to be added. A TFT-LCD with a resolution of 176×220 may require 528 (176×3) channels in the source driver IC. Therefore, a source driver IC having 384 channels provides an insufficient number of channels, as required by the LCD. The chip size of the driver IC of the source driver unit is mainly limited by pin number (pad-limited), while the chip size of the driver IC of the gate driver unit is mainly limited by the internal circuit size (core-limited). Increasing the channel number may invariably increase the pin number of the driver IC of the source driver unit, thereby greatly influencing chip size.

[0004] There are several methods of using a TFT-LCD with high resolution.

[0005] 1. It is possible to use two general source driver ICs each having 384 channels. However, the cost of the driver ICs is increased. In addition, because the small-sized TFT-LCD module is mainly used in small devices, the size of the mechanism has to be increased if two ICs are needed, which doesn't meet the requirement of having a small device size. Furthermore, it is possible that only a small portion of the channels of the second source driver IC are used. In this example, only 144 (528-384) channels of the second IC are used, which is not economically efficient.

[0006] 2. It is possible to provide all the channels required by a driver IC.

However, this may increase packaging difficulties, and the number of channels increased is also limited. Additionally, verifying the redesigned IC is a time consuming process.

[0007] 3. It is possible to enlarge the size of the driver IC in order to increase the number of channels. However, the cost and mechanism volume may be increased, which may not meet size requirements for small devices. Additionally, verifying the redesigned IC is a time consuming process.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a layout structure for a liquid crystal display so as to decrease the number of required channels in

the source driver IC while providing the desired high resolution.

[0009] The invention achieves the above-identified object by providing a layout structure for a liquid crystal display, which includes a plurality of units.

Each unit includes a first data line, a second data line, a first scan line, a second scan line, a third scan line, a first pixel, and a second pixel. The first data line and second data line are arranged substantially in parallel with each other. The first, second, and third scan lines are arranged substantially in parallel, and arranged in a matrix pattern together with the first and second data lines. The first pixel includes a first sub-pixel, a second sub-pixel, and a third sub-pixel.

The first sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and first scan line. The second sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and first scan line. The third sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and second scan line. The second pixel includes a fourth sub-pixel, a fifth sub-pixel, and a sixth sub-pixel. The fourth sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and second scan line. The fifth sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and third scan line. The sixth sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and third scan line.

[0010] When the first scan line is enabled, data on the first data line is input to the first sub-pixel, and data on the second data line is input to the second sub-pixel. When the second scan line is enabled, data on the second data line is input to the third sub-pixel, and data on the first data line is input to the fourth

sub-pixel. When the third scan line is enabled, data on the first data line is input to the fifth sub-pixel, and data on the second data line is input to the sixth sub-pixel.

[0011] The invention also achieves the above-identified object by providing another layout structure for a liquid crystal display, which includes a plurality of units. Each unit includes a first, second, third, and fourth data line; a first, second, and third scan line; and a first, second, third, and fourth pixel. The first, second, third, and fourth data lines are arranged almost completely in parallel. The first, second, and third scan lines are arranged almost completely in parallel, and arranged in a matrix pattern together with the first, second, third, and fourth data lines. The first pixel includes first, second, and third sub-pixels. The first sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and first scan line. The second sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and first scan line. The third sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and second scan line. The second pixel includes fourth, fifth, and sixth sub-pixels. The fourth sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and second scan line. The fifth sub-pixel is coupled to the first data line and third scan line. The sixth sub-pixel is coupled to the second data line and third scan line. The third pixel includes seventh, eighth, and ninth sub-pixels. The seventh sub-pixel is coupled to the third data line and second scan line. The eighth sub-pixel is coupled to the third data line and first scan

line. The ninth sub-pixel is coupled to the fourth data line and first scan line. The fourth pixel includes tenth, eleventh, and twelfth sub-pixels. The tenth sub-pixel is coupled to the third data line and third scan line. The eleventh sub-pixel is coupled to the fourth data line and third scan line. The twelfth sub-pixel is coupled to the fourth data line and second scan line.

[0012] When the first scan line is enabled, data on the first data line is input to the first sub-pixel, data on the second data line is input to the second sub-pixel, data on the third data line is input to the eighth sub-pixel, and data on the fourth data line is input to the ninth sub-pixel. When the second scan line is enabled, data on the second data line is input to the third sub-pixel, data on the first data line is input to the fourth sub-pixel, data on the third data line is input to the seventh sub-pixel, and data on the fourth data line is input to the twelfth sub-pixel. When the third scan line is enabled, data on the first data line is input to the fifth sub-pixel, data on the second data line is input to the sixth sub-pixel, data on the third data line is input to the tenth sub-pixel, and data on the fourth data line is input to the eleventh sub-pixel.

[0013] Other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred but non-limiting embodiments. The following description is made with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] FIG. 1 (Prior Art) is a schematic illustration showing the layout structure of a conventional LCD.

[0015] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration showing a unit with the TFT-LCD layout structure according to a first embodiment of the invention.

[0016] FIG. 3 is a schematic illustration showing a unit with the TFT-LCD layout structure according to a second embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] In a TFT-LCD module with a resolution of 176×220 , each pixel includes three sub-pixels, the source driver IC has to provide 528 (176×3) output channels, and the gate driver IC has to provide 220 output channels. But a general source driver IC has only 384 channels. Hence, an object of the invention is to reduce the number of channels required while maintaining the desired high resolution.

[0018] The invention is to amend the layout of the TFT-LCD and the flow for displaying data so as to achieve the object of the invention. The layout structure of the TFT-LCD includes multiple units arranged in a repeating matrix pattern.

FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration showing a unit with a TFT-LCD layout structure according to the first embodiment of the invention. The TFT-LCD includes a plurality of the above-mentioned units arranged in a matrix pattern. The unit includes data lines S1 and S2 arranged substantially in parallel, and scan lines G1, G2 and G3 arranged substantially in parallel. Data lines S and scan lines G are perpendicular to each other. The unit includes a first pixel P1 and a second pixel P2, each of which includes three sub-pixels corresponding to the colors red, green, and blue. The first pixel includes sub-pixels p11, p21, and p31. Sub-pixel p11 of the first pixel is coupled to the data line S1 and scan line G1; sub-pixel p21 is coupled to the data line S2 and scan line G1; and sub-pixel p31 is coupled to the data line S2 and scan line G2. The second pixel includes sub-pixels p12, p22, and p32. Sub-pixel p12 is coupled to the data line S1 and scan line G2; sub-pixel p22 is coupled to the data line S1 and scan line G3; and sub-pixel p32 is coupled to the data line S2 and scan line G3. Each sub-pixel is coupled to the corresponding data line and scan line through a transistor T.

[0019] When scan line G1 is enabled, data on data line S1 is input to the sub-pixel p11 and data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel p21. When scan line G2 is enabled, data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel p31 and data on data line S1 is input to sub-pixel p12. When scan line G3 is enabled, data on data line S1 is input to sub-pixel p22 and data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel

p32.

[0020] Two conventional pixels similar to those in the embodiment may need three data lines and two scan lines. In this embodiment, the number of data lines is reduced to two and the number of scan lines is increased to three.

5 Hence, the number of scan lines may be effectively decreased so that the number of channels required by the source driver IC is reduced. An LCD employing this invention would have 528×220 sub-pixels, 352 ($528 \times 2/3$) data lines, and 330 ($220 \times 3/2$) scan lines. Therefore, it is possible to drive the high resolution TFT-LCD by using only one general source driver IC having 384
10 channels. The total number of channels of the conventional source driver IC and gate driver IC is equal to 748 ($528 + 220$). The total number of channels in this embodiment is equal to 682 ($352 + 330$), which is 66 ($748 - 682$) less than the conventional channel number.

[0021] FIG. 3 is a schematic illustration showing a unit with a TFT-LCD
15 layout structure according to the second embodiment of the invention. The TFT-LCD includes a plurality of the above-mentioned units arranged in a matrix pattern. The unit includes first, second, third, and fourth pixels. The first pixel includes sub-pixels p11, p21, and p31; the second pixel includes sub-pixels p12, p22, and p32; the third pixel includes sub-pixels p41, p51, and p61; and the
20 fourth pixel includes sub-pixels p42, p52, and p62. The layouts of the first and

second pixels are the same as those of the first embodiment, and the layouts of the third and fourth pixels are mirror images of the first and second pixel respectively. Each sub-pixel is coupled to the corresponding data line through a transistor T.

5 [0022] When scan line G1 is enabled, data on data line S1 is input to the sub-pixel p11; data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel p21; data on data line S3 is input to sub-pixel p51; and data on data line S4 is input to sub-pixel p61. When scan line G2 is enabled, data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel p31; data on data line S1 is input to sub-pixel p12; data on data line S3 is input to
10 sub-pixel p41; and data on data line S4 is input to sub-pixel p62. When scan line G3 is enabled, data on data line S1 is input to sub-pixel p22; data on data line S2 is input to sub-pixel p32; data on data line S3 is input to sub-pixel p42; and data on data line S4 is input to sub-pixel p52.

[0023] The reduced number of channels in the second embodiment is equal
15 to that in the first embodiment. Taking the LCD having 528×220 sub-pixels as an example, it requires 352 data lines and 330 scan lines when employing the layout of this embodiment. Therefore, it is possible to drive the high resolution TFT-LCD using only one general source driver IC having 384 channels. The
total number of channels of the conventional source driver IC and gate driver IC
20 is equal to 748 (528+220). In this embodiment, however, the total number of

channels is equal to 682 (352+330), which is 66 (748-682) less than the conventional number.

[0024] The TFT-LCD layout structures disclosed in the above-mentioned embodiments of the invention may utilize fewer channels without influencing normal functions thereof.

[0025] While the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of a preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto. On the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements and procedures, and the scope of the appended claims therefore should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar arrangements and procedures.